

Business Notices



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THE SAD DROWNING ACCIDENT AT SWATOW.

The Douglas Steamship Co.'s steamer *Namoo* arrived to-day, with her flag half-masted, and having the remains of the late Mr. D. K. Slinman, whose sudden death by drowning has been lamented by the whole colony. Messrs Jardine, Matheson and Co. have received particulars of the sad accident from their agent in Swatow. It appears that about five o'clock on the 9th July, Mr. Slinman and four other young men went down to Double Island for sea-bathing. They had been swimming about for about ten minutes and had two companions had ventured out beyond their depth when Mr. Slinman threw up his arms and sank with a slight cry but no apparent struggle. The sunbather is that Mr. Slinman had become exhausted. For a second or two the two young men who were swimming near, could not realise what had happened, but as Mr. Slinman never appeared above the surface they called on their two companions for assistance—one of whom was Mr. C. H. Ross, assistant with Messrs Jardine, Matheson and Co. They swam around the spot for some time, and dived several times, but without catching sight of Mr. Slinman. The four men now lost all hope of recovering Slinman, but they called the bathing saunter and dived all round the place where he had sunk in the hope of finding the body. Owing to the quantity of sand in the water, it was impossible to see anything, but they continued their efforts and groped along the bottom in hopes of finding the body, but without result. Meanwhile the alarm had spread, and nets were procured with which they dragged the water for some time. Between half-past nine and ten o'clock the body was washed up on the beach at Mass. Mr. Ross immediately had the body removed to the chapel at Kachuan. An inquest was held at the Consulate on Saturday morning, at which the jury brought in a verdict of death by accidental drowning. The very sad death of Mr. Slinman cast quite a gloom over the community.

The funeral took place this afternoon at the Happy Valley.

A large number of gentry merchants and nobles of Moukden, Manchuria have combined themselves into a syndicate with the object of developing the whole province of Fengtien. The Taungli Yampin has given its consent to the petition of the syndicate and has recommended it to the favourable consideration of the Viceroy of the Peiyang Administration and the Tartar-General of Moukden (Fengtien).—*N. C. Daily News.*

THE *Kokumia Shimbun*, thinks the time has come for Japan, to pursue a mild and conciliatory policy in Formosa. Considering the character of the Chinese people in the island, it has hitherto been imperatively necessary for the Japanese Government to exercise its authority with unbending firmness and dignity. The islanders still regard their rulers with secret suspicion and hatred, and the business administration there is attended with great difficulties. Endeavours must hereafter be directed toward winning the love and confidence of the new subjects. Our contemporary strongly urges the Government to adopt an open and magnanimous policy in Formosa.

A native correspondent at Chongtu, the provincial capital of Szechuan, writing under date of the 12th June says that as the scholars of the Roman Catholic Latin College of Changshien were being removed by their belongings to their new college, lately erected at a place called Watson, a short distance from the city walls of Chongtu, there suddenly appeared, midway on the journey, a band of eight armed men, who plundered the caravan of everything valuable and then made off into the hills. One of the men was severely wounded and a scholar reported to be missing. The Roman Catholic Bishop has reported the matter to the Bureau of Foreign Affairs and the Viceroy Li has promised a reward for the capture of the robbers.—*N. C. Daily News.*

A TIENTSIN letter from native sources reports that a certain foreign mining engineer named Sha (who) was engaged by H. E. Li Hung-chang, while in Europe, to make a special survey after gold in the Jeho region and Manchuria as far as the Chinese Amur territory, has returned to Tientsin from his northern trip, and has reported to this Viceroy Wang that he has found the whole country visited by him very rich in the precious metal, and that the farther he went the better and richer did he find the indications. The Chinese official says, that he has received receipt of this news and measures will be taken to secure that these mines be worked by government, especially in the Amur, before the Russians make a move in the matter. Mr. Sha is probably Mr. Pritchard Morgan's geologist, Mr. Shockey.—*N. C. Daily News.*

According to London Engineering the profitable utilization of the great masses of waste glass accumulated at factories is accomplished in a comparatively easy manner by Mr. Garchay, a Frenchman. He grinds the waste glass and puts the powder into two furnaces in succession, in order to dehydrate the mass; the first furnace serves for the gradual annealing of the mass, so that all the parts are dehydrated as uniformly as possible; the mould remains about one hour in this furnace. Booming with the molecules well together and form a very consistent dough. In this condition the mould is taken out of the furnace and put into a second furnace that is heated to a very high temperature. In this furnace the mould is left for only a very few minutes, this second operation being intended to complete the dehydratation and to make the mass more pliable. The substance is now in a condition to be pressed into different shapes, these being produced in this manner all kinds of ornamental or other building stone, which is generally called ceramic stone.

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SUPREME COURT IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

(Before His Honour A. G. Wise, Puisne Judge.)
Tuesday, July 13.

KASHIR SINGH v. LAURENCE AND ANOTHER.

Kashir Singh, groom of the Asiatic Artillery, and Miss Laurence and another on a promissory note for \$200.

Mr. O. D. Thomson of Messrs Doan and Hastings' office appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. M. J. D. Stephens represented the defendants.

The promissory note and a guarantee, on the same paper, signed by Misses Emily and Fanny Laurence were produced. The note was in favour of the late Mr. J. Laurence, over and over the Sugar Works.

Mr. Stephens first of all objected to the promissory note signed by Joseph Laurence. The guarantee signed by Emily and Fanny Laurence had a fifty-cent stamp affixed to it. He held that this fifty-cent stamp covered the guarantee, and not the promissory note, which only required a five-cent stamp.

Mr. Stephens then proceeded to state his case. The plaintiff was approached by Miss Francis Laurence in April, 1895, and requested a loan of \$200 for her father.

The plaintiff stated he wanted security, and the two girls signed as security. Kashir Singh, No. 359, groom in the Asiatic Artillery, said he lent the money on the 3rd April. The father signed the promissory note, and the guarantee was signed by the two daughters. He had never received any of the principal. He received interest for six months at the rate of 2 per cent per month.

Mr. Stephens said the father had had a loan of \$200 on a former note in 1893 from Kashir Singh. At the request of the plaintiff the note was renewed in 1895 to secure the former note. He contended that under these circumstances the money was not recoverable.

The two daughters and a son of the deceased gave evidence as to the first note having been made, and the second one was given to secure the money loaned under the previous note. Interest was at the rate of 2 per cent per month.

Mr. Stephens said the children signed the agreement just to please the father. His Lordship said he was sorry for the daughter, but he was bound to give judgment for the plaintiff with costs.

Mr. Stephens asked his Lordship to make an order for payment.

His Lordship ordered that the money be paid in instalments of \$25 a month, to commence on the 1st of next month.

Mr. Stephens asked for a reduction, as Mr. Morphy, husband of one of the daughters, only received \$50 a month, while the other daughter had received \$100 a month.

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THE HERMIT KINGDOM.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Vladivostok, June 29, 1897.

The delightfully circuitous trip of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamer *Nagato* from Hongkong to Vladivostok enabled your correspondent to visit many places and tarry sufficiently long to get somewhat informed in regard to political and other affairs. This facility was especially afforded in Corea, for the stops at Chemulpo, Fusan and Gensan were long enough to enable the very considerable list of passengers to get posted in regard to these three most important Coast points in Corea.

There was considerable agitation at Seoul over the embarrassment caused by the protest, the emphatic, vigorous protest, of the Japanese Government to the employment of sixty or more Russian army officers as instructors of the rather tame and harmless-looking soldiery of this strange country—the Peninsula that has earned the reputation of being 'the theatre of political intrigues and civil revolts and disturbances.' That matter of engaging Russian instructors seems to be settled. But it is settled for the time being, simply. The best-informed Europeans at the capital and at the other Korean places named think the Russian Government would not have taken so conciliatory an attitude in this matter if it were a different state of things political existed in Europe just now. The Russian Government, enlightened Europeans believe, feels a very great interest in 'the Hermit Kingdom'—an interest and concern which is too great to be natural and mutual; and they believe that it is only a question of time when the Power, that is advancing to the eastward, and in other directions so stealthily, will appear less pacific and make its selfish interest in Corea manifest.

There is quite a number of Russian 'instructors' among the Korean soldiers at present—instructors who were employed some time ago.

I can sum up the situation in the troubled and troublesome Kingdom in a few paragraphs:

1. Two influences are now striving for mastery—one Japanese and the other Russian. Among Koreans, some are pro-Japanese, while others are pro-Russian.

2. Since October, 1895, the Russian influence has prevailed, a fact that is due mainly to Japan's grievous blunders.

3. What Corea wants is a steady, centralized Government, an extensive primary education, the improvement upwards. Security of life and property—a blessing which has been unknown in Corea for many years.

4. The Japanese and the Russians are both striving to promote industry and trade.

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SERIOUS FIRE IN SHANGHAI HARBOUR.

Shanghai, July 7.

A fire, which but for the energetic action taken for its suppression would almost certainly have involved very serious damage, occurred on board the steamer *Lennox* on Monday evening. The ship's lamp-trimmer was in the lamp room, which is situated under the foremast, engaged in lighting the riding and gangway lamps, when by some carelessness he overturned one of the lighted lamps was upon the whole place was instantly ablaze, and by some time the ship's hose was at once got to work and being supplemented by wet blankets and sand, the fire was extinguished before it could spread beyond the lamp room itself. The room was completely gutted and all the contents practically destroyed. The lamp-trimmer and third officer were rather badly burned in extinguishing the flames, but fortunately not in so severe a manner as to necessitate their removal to the hospital.

The *Lennox* arrived here from New York on Sunday last, and has a large cargo of 30,000 cases of kerosene, very little of which has been discharged. Had the fire not been so quickly suppressed, the consequences would undoubtedly have proved extremely serious, and great credit is due to the officers and crew for their prompt and ready measures for coping with the outbreak.—*N. C. Daily News.*

A FEMININE 'PALACE STAFF.'

A house paper remarks:—The new Shah of Persia has received what the English call 'the feminine staff of the Palace at Tehran.' He has kept only six wives, and finds the total sufficient for dignity and within the limits of a wise economy. The family tree of sixty wives has at present put the Shah in a very awkward position, and he is now in a very awkward position, and he is now in a very awkward position.

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3.30 p.m. on the 8th inst., Present:—Messrs R. M. Gray (Chairman), H. Smith (Vice-Chairman), J. J. Bell-Young, T. Jackson, St. C. Michaelson, N. A. Sides, T. H. Whitfield, and R. O. Wilcox (Secretary).

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

HONGKONG'S CONTRIBUTION TO EASTERN MAIL SUBSIDY.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary, dated 2nd July, in reply to the Chamber's letter on above subject of the 8th June, stating that the views of the Chamber have been communicated to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

PROPOSED MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALL VESSELS ENTERING HONGKONG.

The report of the Special Committee of gentlemen intimately connected with shipping who had accepted the invitation to act, having been received on the 5th July, was laid on the table and considered. It was decided to adopt this report, but pending reference to the one recommendation in the Committee's letter, it was decided to defer reply to the Government's letter until receipt of the desired information.

PROPOSED CAPITATION TAX ON CHINESE IMMIGRANTS IN THE STRAITS.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary, dated 18th June, transmitting copy of a letter from the Government of the Straits Settlements, in which it was announced that the proposed Bill to provide funds for the erection of a new Government building, and the proposed Bill to provide funds for the erection of a new Government building, and the proposed Bill to provide funds for the erection of a new Government building.

The Chamber, having taken the opinion of experts, is satisfied that the reclamation will not affect the fairway or cause edging up of the foreshore to any extent, but in the event of any silting he stated, under reserve, that the Admiralty would take any remedial measures that might be necessary.

Resolved to reply to effect that the Chamber were glad to receive the Commemorations, and trusted that the Admiralty would, if need arose, give full effect to same.

THE CONSULTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR WEST RIVER FORTS.

A letter received on the 14th June from Mr. Consul-General, Canton, announcing that Mr. W. J. Jamieson had proceeded to Wuchow for the purpose of establishing a British Consular office at that port; acknowledgment had been made and copies of letter supplied to local Press.

THE LOST DRESS.

A letter from the Greenock Chamber of Commerce, dated 11th May, in acknowledgment of the Chamber's circular letter of 28th Jan., had been received, and copies of same supplied to local Press for publication.

THE IMPORT OF INDIAN YARN INTO TONKIN.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary, dated 6th July, handing copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in which it was stated that the prohibition of the import of Indian cotton yarn had been removed, and that it would, after being disinfectant, be again allowed to enter Tonkin ports.

(Correspondence.)

THE MAIL SUBSIDY.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 2nd May, 1897.

Sir—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th inst. on the subject of the proposed Bill to provide funds for the erection of a new Government building, and the proposed Bill to provide funds for the erection of a new Government building, and the proposed Bill to provide funds for the erection of a new Government building.

(Signed) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 13th June, 1897.

Sir—With reference to your letter of the 21st ultimo relative to the proposed Bill to provide funds for the erection of a new Government building, and the proposed Bill to provide funds for the erection of a new Government building, and the proposed Bill to provide funds for the erection of a new Government building.

(Signed) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 10th June, 1897.

Sir—With reference to your letter of the 21st ultimo, forwarding a letter addressed to me by the Secretary of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, I am directed by the Governor to request that you will be good enough to inform the Chamber of Commerce that the Bill referred to in your letter has been withdrawn, and that the fund required for the erection of a new Government building will be otherwise provided for.

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